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Contributions on subjects of interest to Sierra Club members are welcome, and should be sent to the Editorial Board.

Francis P. Farquhar, *Editor*; Harriet T. Parsons, *Associate Editor*; Barbara Bedayn, David R. Brower, Weldon F. Heald, Charlotte Mauk, Marion R. Parsons, Blanche Stallings.

No Annual Dinner

The Executive Committee has announced that the Annual Banquet usually held on the evening of the annual business meeting of the directors will be omitted this year. The decision was made because of the difficulty in finding suitable accommodations under present circumstances, and because of the high cost of food and service. Moreover the restrictions on travel would undoubtedly prevent many members from attending.

Regrettable as it seems to have to forego this annual reunion, it is believed that the membership will recognize the wisdom of the decision, and will look forward to a day when these reunions may be resumed. Meanwhile, there are other ways in which the unity of the club may be strengthened. In fact, with so many of its members scattered around the world, there no doubt is developing a wider outlook that will bind the club together in a far-reaching unity greater than its nominal boundaries.

Vacation Visitors Enjoy Lodges

We Hear from Mrs. Enid Michael. LeConte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite Valley

carried out to a satisfactory extent its function as a pleasant and informative center for all visitors in the Valley.

It was opened on May 30, after having been thoroughly cleaned and put in order. Among the innovations this summer was a fine poster designed by Eloise Dyer and placed at various strategic points in the valley, and an attractive bulletin board, which was hung near the highway outside the lodge. On this was posted trail information, data on trees, birds, etc., and other items of interest. It proved of great value to many visitors and a magnet into the lodge itself. The old albums already there were put into better order, and new gifts in the way of photographs and albums were received. These were all enjoyed by the visitors, and were an inspiration to many to explore farther for themselves. Once a week the building was opened at eight in the evening for a program; usually moving pictures of different aspects of the Sierra. The room was always filled on these occasions.

The attendance of visitors was gratifying through the season. It was felt by everyone who had a part in the summer program of the LeConte Memorial Lodge that it had succeeded in filling as usual its very useful and important niche in the summer life of Yosemite Valley.

Douglas Whiteside Sends Word from Tuolumne Meadows. The use of Parsons Memorial Lodge, although curtailed by the war, was nevertheless greater than most people had expected. The number of signatures this year was 263, as against 690 for the same period last year; roughly thirty-eight per cent of last year's travel. Members managed to arrive on foot, on the supply truck of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company, and in their own cars. This last of course involved saving one's gas for a considerable period; but apparently it was worth it. Those who arrived did not have to worry about provisions, as the store was open and well stocked during July and August.

Not a great deal of hiking was done. Some of course took the numerous trails that ra-

diate in every direction from the Meadows, but many were content to stay in camp, swim in the Tuolumne, and gather around the fire in the evenings for popcorn, chocolate and conversation. The few club members who were knapsacking merely stopped for a night or two before continuing their trips into the high country.

The majority of members stayed for a longer period of time than formerly, probably because of the transportation complications. The lack of tourist travel made the meadows especially attractive, with a primitive aspect usually lacking.

The club is particularly indebted to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. MacBride, through whose help the custodian was able to obtain a complete set of topographic maps of the Sierra Nevada. These maps will be very useful, as the sale of such maps to the public is restricted, and many persons planning mountain trips would otherwise have no opportunity to consult them. We are also indebted to Mr. Kittredge, Superintendent of Yosemite National Park, and to Mr. Harry Meyer, for their cooperation in the transportation of the Club's wood to the Lodge.

Report Comes from Haven Jorgensen at Norden. With flaming autumn colors and crisp ideal hiking weather still drawing members to Norden, the Clair Tappaan

Lodge committee and its lodge staff look back on the past summer's activities with a great deal of satisfaction. Operating for the first time in summer with a resident custodian in charge and meals under a central commissary plan, the Norden lodge proved an ideal wartime substitute for the usual High Sierra trips. Attendance records show that one hundred and fifty-one members and guests spent a total of over a thousand days at the lodge during the summer months. This perhaps indicates that our ski lodge may, some day, become as popular in the warmer months as it is in winter.

Of special interest was a bird list that grew to sixty-nine species, and Tom Howell's fine plant collection of six hundred specimens, which included some very rare plants. Greatest excitement, and later a source of much entertainment, was the arrival of Edgar's six kittens. Hiking and swimming in the many hidden-away mountain lakes were popular pastimes. Quite a number of overnight trips gave the hardier souls mountaineering practice. Although the association of amateur cooks and the Norden school of home economics had a lot of fun trying out experiments on new arrivals, they managed to keep everyone well fed and happy. Yes, in every respect it was a grand summer at Norden.

Do You Know Your Library?

At the Sierra Club office in the Mills Tower there is an excellent Library, of which only a small percentage of the members seems aware. About seven hundred books, which may be borrowed by members for short periods, fill the shelves. Most of these are popular books on mountaineering, skiing, natural science and related subjects. In addition, there is a large collection of rare volumes, periodicals of mountaineering and outdoor organizations, and similar material, including photograph albums and maps. These are intended primarily for ref-

erence, and are to be used only in the club-rooms.

Because of the rapid accumulation of library material, until recently all this material had not been well arranged, and even constant users were unable to locate desired publications. But within the last few years a library committee has been organized, and it has made considerable progress in arranging and cataloguing. Practically all of the books to be borrowed have been catalogued on the shelves in accordance with the Dewey decimal classification system.

At present the librarians are classifying the reference books, photograph albums and maps, and the isolated articles in the so-called "separates" collection; and in time the entire contents of the library will be catalogued. In this way it is becoming more and

more useful to any member who avails himself of its facilities, and as there is so much of interest on the shelves, it is hoped that an increasing number of members will take advantage of all it has to offer.

ALFRED E. WEILER.

Variety in the Library

Ski Tracks on the Battlefield. By V. A. Firsoff, M.A. A. S. Barnes & Co., New York, 1943. Price \$2.00.

The first book written in English, and for the layman, which describes skiing in warfare, this also gives an interesting and concise picture of the importance of skis throughout the ages. We are perhaps surprised to learn that there was skiing in the Stone Age, and we are certainly intrigued to hear of the types of skis used in different countries in early times. We find also that ski troops are no new idea. Long ago there was a ski war god named Ull, and many early chronicles tell of the use of skis in war. Interesting reproductions in the book portray old time Norwegian ski troops, and military ski drills in the eighteenth century, in which the uniforms seem more dressy than practical.

The author describes the ski itself, the types best adapted to military use, and the countries in which it is a necessity in war as in peace. He discusses the winter equipment and general organization of the Scandinavian armies, and the training given the men in marching, use of weapons, bivouacking in sub-zero weather, etc. Somewhat different is the training of Alpine armies, on steeper terrain, although the same knowledge of weather and winter campaigning holds true in most countries, regardless of the geographical region.

Brief accounts of the Russian ski troops, and the use of skis in the British and Canadian armies are included. The development of skiing in the American Army is related from the first idea sown by the civilian Na-

tional Ski Association, to the organization of the first Mountain Infantry Regiment which trained in the Pacific Northwest.

Some of the most interesting chapters are those on the war in our time; in Finland, Norway, the Balkans, and Russia, all of them the first ski tracks on the battlefields of this war. It is an edifying book, and should be of value not only to the professional who would find the technical detail interesting, but to the non-military reader as well.

H. T. P.

Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Maine. The Appalachian Trail Conference, Washington, D. C., 1942. Price \$2.50.

The Appalachian Trail extends through the mountains of the Eastern Atlantic states, from Mount Katahdin in central Maine, 2,050 miles south to Mount Oglethorpe in northern Georgia. With this as the master trail, the various trail systems which had already been developed by numerous mountaineering clubs in their own sections of the county, were joined. Now the Trail is under the supervision of the organizations which maintain the route, and these various organizations are federated in The Appalachian Trail Conference with headquarters in Washington, D. C.

The supervision of the Appalachian Trail in Maine is under the jurisdiction of The Maine Appalachian Club, which was organized in 1935. At the beginning of the development of the Appalachian Trail there was no outing club in that particular section, and it was thought that it might not be possible to extend the Trail any farther north

than Mount Washington in New Hampshire. However, with the cooperation of the U. S. Forest Service, the Appalachian Trail in Maine became a CCC project, was built, and is now one of the finest trails in the East.

It covers a distance of 266 miles, which is well described in the Guidebook. In this guide the Trail data are prepared in both directions, so all through trails may be followed either way one is going. Points of particular interest as well as items of historic or economic significance along each section are emphasized. There is a generalized account of the Trail route, giving a brief summary of the route to be travelled. Then follows, as a separate part, a specific detailed description of the Trail, to be used for route-finding. There is a good map of each section, showing roads, trails, etc., to be used in conjunction with the detailed route in the text.

This Guidebook is bound firmly in loose-

leaf form, so old directions can be easily replaced with new ones. Also the directions for any trip can be removed, with the accompanying maps, and carried in a case, eliminating the necessity of carrying the complete Guide. This admirable format has also made it possible to insert addenda in regard to changes in accommodations and trail maintenance which the war has brought about. Thus it is kept very up to date.

It is a practical and carefully planned guide, with extra chapters on geology, first aid, wood pests, and other items of interest. There is a good bibliography, and also a list of publications on the Appalachian Trail. Even a brief study of the Guide stirs one to think it would be rather inspiring to stand on the summit of Katahdin and look down on the many lakes below, though the chapter on mosquitoes and no-sec-ums momentarily halts one's enthusiasm.

H. T. P.

Exhibition

Watercolors by Sergeant Malcolm G. Smith, done in the vicinity of Kodiak, Alaska, will be on exhibit in the club rooms during October, November and December. Sergeant Smith was stationed at Kodiak for twenty months. During this time he not only

painted, but collected over two hundred arctic plants, which are now at the California Academy of Sciences. John Thomas Howell has arranged to have some of the most attractive of these shown in conjunction with the watercolors.

Honorary Vice President Writes from England

A letter was recently received by Mr. Colby from Dr. Hildebrand, who is now in London. He is connected with the Embassy of the United States in the Office of Scientific Research and Development. It was felt that members of the Sierra Club would be interested in sharing this letter in part.

I have received the minute of my election as Honorary Vice-President of the Sierra Club with a degree of satisfaction such as only those can appreciate who like yourself have given part of their lives to the Club and its objectives. I am grateful to you who faithfully keep the Club alive, even though, of necessity, it must be about as active as a bear in winter.

Like the bear, it will emerge ravenous at the end of its long sleep.

[In answer to this Mr. Colby wrote Dr. Hildebrand that the Club has not gone into total hibernation, although the regular outings have been discontinued for this year and probably for the duration. We think Dr. Hildebrand would be pleased to see how the activities of the Club are continuing in spite of curtailments.]

My work here cannot be described, but I am happy to say that it exactly fits my tastes and background of experience, both military and scientific. I enjoy the most complete cooperation of both British authorities and officers of our own Forces, and I am a free lance.

Cordially,
JOEL H. HILDEBRAND

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